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In yet a further embodiment of this invention, the reactive reagents, whether directly applied to a surface of the collection device or placed in the collection device in the form of a reagent strip, it may be beneficial for the reactive reagents to be physically separated by a separation means until such time as the analysis is to be conducted. If the analysis is to be conducted right away, upon collection of nasal secretion, the barrier may be removed or perforated, so that nasal secretion may contact the reagent pads. If the analysis is to be conducted some time after collection of the nasal secretion, the barrier means may be left intact, and removed only when the analysis is to be conducted. Alternative means for creating such a barrier include the possibility of including a fold in the collection device, a ZIPLOC™ feature, a breakable barrier or the like, separating the main chamber of the collection device from the reactive reagents.

In the Abstract

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

~~A method and device for rapidly, non-invasively and inexpensively differentiating between allergic rhinitis, upper respiratory tract viral infection and bacterial sinusitis, comprising a support strip upon which is fixed discrete indicators of pH, protein content, nitrite content, leukocyte esterase activity, and eosinophil content or other measure of a substance found in allergic secretions, such as TAME esterase, of a sample with which said reagent test strip is contacted. Contact of a nasal secretion with the device of this invention permits differentiation between allergic, bacterial and viral conditions, based on pH, protein content, leukocyte esterase activity, nitrite content, eosinophil content and TAME esterase activity. The invention further provides a novel means for collecting nasal secretions to facilitate differential diagnosis of sinusitis, upper respiratory tract viral infection and allergic rhinitis.~~ A device for collecting nasal secretions that comprises a container designed to fit about a patient's nose. The device comprises a ventilation means to allow the patient to blow their nose into the container while preventing the undesired dispersion of nasal secretion onto the patient and their surrounding environment.